

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
AREA COMMAND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY / SITUATION REPORT  
2015 Gold King Mine Release**



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Area Command (EPA Regions 8, 6, and 9)**



**EXECSUM / SITREP #6  
Gold King Mine Release**

**Subject:**

**San Juan County, Colorado  
Latitude: 37.8945 Longitude: -107.6384**

**From:** Area Command Situation Unit

**Date:** 08/17/2015

**Reporting Period:** 08/16/2015 0700 through 08/17/2015 0700

**Website:** [www.epa.gov/goldkingmine](http://www.epa.gov/goldkingmine)

## **Executive Summary**

For Internal Use Only  
Gold King Mine Release  
EPA Executive Summary: August 17, 2015 1900

### **Situation Summary**

EPA Area Command (AC), comprised of EPA Regions 6, 8, and 9 is continuing strategic management over the three Unified Incident Command Posts (ICPs).

### **Highlights, Key Updates/Changes**

- Operations at the Gold King Mine Site took delivery and started using two Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTVs) for transporting visitors up to the release site.
- AC Safety Officer completed the draft Media Coordination Safety Plan and UTV Safety SOP.
- AC Logistics filled the Environmental Unit Leader, Toxicologist Technical Support, and AC Finance Officer positions requested by AC. Logistics continues to work on filling the Documentation Unit Leader position.
- On Sunday, August 16, 2015, AC completed a draft documentation plan and distributed it to the Regional Incident Commanders for review and comments.
- AC implemented a Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) program for response personnel.

### **Area Command Emphasis**

For the next operational period, the AC command's emphasis will be:

- Positive and professional communications.
- Response documentation and right-sizing guidance.
- Preparation for visits scheduled next week by Congressional members and OSWER Headquarters personnel.
- Safety risk management and mitigation practices.
- Security associated with new location of AC.

Note: The metrics provided in this SITREP represent quantities reported for work completed on Sunday, August 16, 2015.

## 1.0 Operations

### 1.1 Sampling Operations

The table below summarizes Operations sampling activities for August 16, 2015.

**Table 1- Operations Sampling Summary as of August 16, 2015**

<b>Matrix</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>August 16, 2015</b>	<b>Cumulative for Response*</b>
Private Drinking Water Wells	Region 8	36	203
	Region 6	0	170
	Region 9	0	0
Surface Water Samples	Region 8	7	137
	Region 6	9	92
	Region 9	0	94
Sediment Samples	Region 8	0	39
	Region 6	9	118
	Region 9	0	69

\*Note: Sample totals compiled daily from SCRIBE database. Totals include field samples and QA/QC samples.

### 1.2 Water Distribution and Transportation Branch

Area Command continues to monitor potable water, agricultural water, and agricultural food deliveries. EPA has purchased 1,120 cases of bottled water to hand out to the community. The table below provides a summary of public support activities completed as of August 16, 2015.

**Table 2- Public Support Summary**

Activity	Region	August 16, 2015		Cumulative	
		Deliveries	Quantity*	Deliveries	Quantity*
Potable Water Deliveries	Region 8	0	0	16	134,200
	Region 6	0	0	0	0
	Region 9	0**	0**	0**	0**
Livestock / Agricultural Water Deliveries	Region 8	1	8,950	46	141,480
	Region 6	6	53,844	50	1,051,146
	Region 9	0	0	27	418,000
Agricultural Food Deliveries	Region 8	0	0	0	0
	Region 6	0	0	0	0
	Region 9	0	0	1	384

Notes: NR- Not reported.

\* Water quantities are reported in gallons, food quantities are reported in bales of hay.

\*\*Water deliveries in Region 9 are being handled by the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority.

### 1.3 Community Engagements

The table below provides a summary of Community engagements reported for August 16, 2015.

**Table 3- Community Engagement Summary**

August 16, 2015		
Community Engagements	Region 8	0
	Region 6	0
	Region 9	2

## 1.4 Anticipated VIP / Congressional Visits and Public Events

The table below summarizes upcoming anticipated Site visits and public events.

**Table 4- Anticipated Site Visits and Public Events Summary**

Unit	Planned Event	Anticipated Date
Area Command	Logistics support of OSWER evaluation team.	8-17-2015 to 8-18-2015
	Logistics support of State officials from CO, UT.	8-17-2015
Region 8	Site visit by EPA Region 8 officials	Monday, August 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2015
	"Durango is Back" Public Event	Tuesday, August 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2015
	Public Availability Session- Durango, CO	Thursday, August 20, 2015
Region 6		
	Community meeting with City of Farmington, NM	Monday, August 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2015
Region 9		
	Daily meetings at designated Navajo chapters.	Daily

## 1.5 Community Relations Branch

EPA National Call Number (844-607-9700)- On August 16, 2015, the EPA National call number received **6** calls. As of August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the national call number has received a total of **142** calls.

EPA Region 8- On August 16, 2015, their regional call center received **10** calls. As of 5:00 pm on August 16, 2015, their regional call center (970-385-8700) had received a total of **732** calls.

EPA Region 6- On August 16, 2015 the toll-free call-in number received **0** inquiries related to Region 6. To date, EPA Region 6 has received **50** calls.

EPA Region 9- On August 16, 2015, the toll-free call in number received 4 inquiries related to Region 9. To date, EPA Region 9 has received **16** calls.

## 2.0 Drinking Water System Impacts

The table below summarizes drinking water systems affected by the response and their status as of August 16, 2015.

**Table 5- Summary of Affected Water Systems**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Number of Affected Water Systems</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Status</b>
Region 8	0	0	All systems currently in operation.
Region 6	8	80,392	All systems currently in operation.
Region 9	0	0	All systems currently in operation.

### 3.0 Finance

#### 3.1 Estimated Response Costs to Date

The table below summarizes estimated total costs for the response as of August 17, 2015.

**Table 6- Estimated Response Costs Reported as of August 17, 2015**

<b>REGION</b>	<b>EPA CUMULATIVE EXPENDED PAYROLL</b>	<b>EPA CUMULATIVE EXPENDED TRAVEL</b>	<b>EPA CUMULATIVE OTHER CHARGES</b>	<b>CUMULATIVE CONTRACT COST</b>	<b>TOTAL CUMULATIVE COSTS EXPENDED</b>
<b>EPA REGION 8</b>	\$535,050	\$54,250	\$0	\$679,284	\$1,268,584
<b>EPA REGION 6</b>	\$168,570	\$43,500	\$68,855	\$989,568	\$1,270,492
<b>EPA REGION 9</b>	\$192,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$396,888	\$608,888
<b>TOTAL COSTS</b>	<b>\$859,620</b>	<b>\$117,750</b>	<b>\$68,855</b>	<b>\$2,065,740</b>	<b>\$3,147,964</b>

#### 3.1 Estimated Burn Rates

The table below summarizes estimated burn rates as of August 16, 2015.

**Table 7- Estimated Burn Rates as of August 16, 2015**

REGION	ESTIMATED DAILY BURN RATE
EPA REGION 8	\$140,954
EPA REGION 6	\$127,049
EPA REGION 9	\$60,889
<b>TOTAL DAILY BURN COSTS</b>	<b>\$328,892</b>

#### **4.0 Participating Entities**

Federal, regional, local and other entities participating in the response are summarized below.

##### **Region 8**

US EPA  
USFWS  
US Coast Guard  
US Bureau of Reclamation  
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)  
ERT  
Colorado Office of Emergency Management  
Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT)  
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe  
La Plata County  
San Juan County  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)  
Southwest IMT  
City of Durango  
Durango Fire Department  
San Juan County Health Department

##### **Region 6**

US EPA  
USFWS  
NMED  
ATSDR  
NM Department of Health

NM Office of the State Engineer  
 NM Department of Game and Fish  
 County of San Juan – New Mexico

**Region 9**

US EPA  
 US Coast Guard  
 Navajo Nation  
 State of Colorado  
 State of New Mexico  
 State of Utah  
 State of Arizona

**5.0 Personnel On-Site**

The table below summarizes staffing numbers for the federal entities and agencies active in the response.

**Table 8- Personnel On-Site as of August 16, 2015**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Agency / Entity</b>	<b>Number of Personnel</b>
Area Command	U.S. EPA	15
	US. EPA Contractors	2
	U.S. Coast Guard	3
EPA Region 8	U.S. EPA Region 8	45
	US. EPA Region 8 Contractors	31
	U.S. Coast Guard	3
	Other Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Entities	68
EPA Region 6	U.S. EPA Region 6	32
	US. EPA Region 6 Contractors	36
	U.S. Coast Guard	0
	Other Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Entities	0
EPA Region 9	U.S. EPA Region 9	8
	US. EPA Region 9 Contractors	18
	U.S. Coast Guard	8
	Other Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Entities	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>271</b>

**6.0 Source of Additional Information**

For additional information, refer to [www.epa.gov/goldkingmine](http://www.epa.gov/goldkingmine)



**ATTACHMENT 1**  
**PRESS RELEASES**

# EPA Update on Gold King Mine Response Efforts for August 16, 2015

Release Date: 08/16/2015

Contact Information: [press@epa.gov](mailto:press@epa.gov); (970) 812-3351

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is committed to working closely with response agencies and state and local officials to ensure the safety of citizens, respond to concerns and to evaluate the water impacted by the spill. Today EPA provided the following updates:

## Website Updates-NEW INFO

Photos Related to Gold King Mine  
Response: <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/photos-related-gold-king-mine-response> History of the Gold King Mine Fact Sheet: <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/gold-king-mine-watershed-fact-sheet> Gold King Mine Response Website in Spanish: <http://espanol.epa.gov/espanol/respuesta-de-emergencia-al-derrame-de-la-mina-gold-king-en-agosto-2015> Latest data update: <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/epa-statement-water-quality-data-collected-san-juan-river-between-farmington-and>

## Mine Discharge Treatment

The Gold King Mine is releasing water at the rate of approximately 600 gallon per minute. Water is captured and treated at a system of pounds before being discharged to Cement Creek.

## Unified Command in Durango, Colorado

Irrigation ditches drawing from the Animas River in Colorado have been flushed and continue to come back online to meet water needs. Water quality data show water meets criteria for agricultural purposes established by the state of Colorado. EPA teams continue to collect water samples in the Animas River and in shallow, domestic private wells adjacent to the river.

## **Unified Command in Farmington, New Mexico**

In New Mexico, EPA has a team of 69 people consisting of federal on-scene coordinators, water quality experts, technicians and contractors supporting the response to the spill. Daily information meetings at the Farmington Convention Center will resume on Monday, August 17.

Last night, New Mexico announced its determination that drinking water systems and recreational activity along the Animas and San Juan rivers can resume based on water quality sampling results collected by both New Mexico Environment Department and the EPA. Reopening drinking water system intakes and allowing recreational activities is a state and local decision and we believe they have taken appropriate steps in arriving at this this decision. EPA sampling results from the river collected last week similarly show that water quality conditions are returning toward pre-event conditions. EPA continues to collect water samples from nine locations in San Juan River near intakes for Aztec, Farmington, Lower Valley Water Users Association, Morning Star Water Supply System and the North Star Water User Association. EPA will continue to sample, analyze, and make data available to support local decision makers to make the best informed decisions. Validated sampling data for the Animas and San Juan Rivers from the Northern Border of New Mexico to Navajo Nation collected from Aug. 9 to Aug. 10, 2015 has been released.

New Mexico also announced that private domestic well water use along the Animas River can resume based on water quality sampling results collected by both New Mexico Environment Department and the EPA. EPA and NMED collected 25 water quality samples from private domestic wells yesterday.

Additionally, New Mexico reopened irrigation ditches along the Animas River for normal irrigation and livestock watering operations yesterday. EPA delivered water to three livestock locations.

## **Navajo Nation**

EPA released additional water quality data from Aug. 7 to Aug. 11, 2015, on the San Juan River between Farmington and Shiprock, New Mexico yesterday. The August 7 data was collected for baseline purposes to understand river conditions at the Hogback monitoring location, prior to the impact from the Gold King Mine release.

To assess the impacts of the release at the Gold King Mine, water quality samples were collected at four locations. Each surface water sample was analyzed for 24 metals including arsenic, cadmium, lead and mercury.

Due to the highly variable conditions typical of this segment of the river, additional testing will be conducted, and EPA continues to work closely with the Navajo Nation EPA on assessing drinking water, agriculture, livestock, and other critical water needs. View the results:

<http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/gold-king-mine-data-august-15-2015>

Water quality testing continues with surface water and sediment sampling and monitoring (pH, conductivity, turbidity) along the San Juan River in the Navajo Nation at 11 monitoring sites.

EPA Region 9 participated in a public meeting attended by approximately 150 officials and residents from four Navajo Nation chapters and other senior Navajo Nation officials, including Navajo Nation Vice President Jonathan Nez and Navajo Nation Attorney General Ethel Branch. Community members raised concerns regarding reimbursement claim Form 95, data availability, water availability for livestock, agriculture and human consumption, and short and long-term health impacts from river exposure.

The Navajo Nation has identified 13 locations for EPA to distribute water for agriculture and livestock use and continues providing over 16,000 gallons of non-potable water per day to each of these locations. EPA also continues to provide hay/alfalfa bales to Navajo Nation chapter locations for livestock needs

### **EPA Staff Deployed**

EPA currently has deployed more than 210 employees and contractors for the response. The U.S. Coast Guard has provided 14 responders. There are also currently at least 20 different federal, state and local agencies involved in the response working to help ensure the health and safety of the public R214

**ATTACHMENT 2**  
**REGIONAL SITUATION REPORTS**

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
2015 Gold King Mine Release SITREP**



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region 8**



**Subject:** Situation Report #9  
Gold King Mine Release  
San Juan County, CO  
Latitude: 37.8945 Longitude: -107.6384

**From:** Durango Unified Command (Situation Unit)

**Date:** 08/17/2015

**Reporting Period:** 08/16/2015 through 08/16/2015

**Website:** <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine>

**New information included in the SITREP is in bold text.**

## **Executive Summary**

On August 5, while investigating the Gold King Mine in Colorado, an EPA cleanup team triggered a release of mine wastewater into Cement Creek. The EPA is working closely with responders and local, state and tribal officials to monitor water contaminated by the release. The release's path flows through three of the EPA's regions - Region 8 (Colorado, Utah, Southern Ute Indian Tribe lands, and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe lands); Region 6 (New Mexico), and Region 9 (Navajo Nation). The EPA has activated its Emergency Operations System to ensure coordination among its regions, laboratories and national program offices in Washington, D.C. A Unified Command has been established in Durango CO, which includes the EPA, State of Colorado Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Southern Ute Indian Tribe, La Plata County, and San Juan Basin Health Department. The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe is an Administrative Agency in the UC. The EPA has established an Area Command in Durango CO, and that covers the Incident Command Post (ICP) Colorado (Colorado Unified Command), ICP New Mexico (New Mexico Unified Command), and the ICP South West (South West Unified Command).

### **Highlights, Key Updates/ Changes:**

- **On 8/18/2015 the EPA and CDPHE will be assessing the upper Animas River through the canyon.**
- **Based on past sample results, the EPA water surface quality sampling points have been reduced to five (3 in Silverton area and 2 in Durango area).**

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Background**

**Site Number: A8K9RV**

**Contract Number:**

**D.O. Number:**

**Action Memo Date:**

**Response Authority: CERCLA**

**Response Type: Emergency**

**Response Lead: EPA**

**Incident Category:**

**NPL Status: not listed**

**Operable Unit:**

**Mobilization Date: 08/05/2015**

**Start Date: 08/05/15**

**Demob Date: TBD**

**Completion Date:**

**CERCLIS ID:**

**RCRIS ID:**

**ERNS No.:**

**State Notification: 08/05/15**

On August 6, 2015 the La Plata County Sheriff issued an order closing the river to all watercraft. The Sheriff reopened the Animas River to recreational use at 12:00 pm on Friday August 14, 2015. The decision was made in conjunction with the San Juan Basin Public Health Department, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the EPA. The Sheriff's order reopening the river was accompanied by a Health Advisory from San Juan Basin Health Department and CDPHE, which provides additional information to recreational users of the river.

At 2 pm on Friday, August 14 2015, the City of Durango resumed pumping water from the Animas River for further treatment. This decision was made in conjunction with the CDPHE. The City will continue to analyze water quality samples, based on pre-established protocols. The City has also lifted the outdoor irrigation restrictions, and encourages responsible outdoor irrigation.

#### **1.1.1.1 Incident Category**

#### **1.1.2 Site Description**

The Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colorado is a historic gold mine at approximately 11,300' elevation. The mine has a continuous discharge of acidic mine drainage that is a significant contributor of manganese, zinc, copper, and cadmium into the Cement Creek drainage of the Animas River watershed. The Gold King Mine has not had maintenance of the mine workings since 1991, and the workings have been inaccessible since 1995 when the mine portal collapsed.

The EPA Region 8 has been investigating the conditions to assess the on-going releases and incremental de-watering and removal of blockages to prevent blowouts.

**1.1.2.1 Location** - San Juan County, Colorado, La Plata County, Colorado, Southern Ute Indian Reservation and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe reservation.

#### **1.1.2.2 Description of Threat**

Mine waste water was released into Cement Creek and the Animas River. The volume of the release based on US Geological Survey (USGS) Cement Creek gaging station is estimated at three million gallons. The initial environmental concern was the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals discharged in Cement Creek which flows into the Animas River through Durango, Colorado, and into New Mexico where it joins the San Juan River before flowing into Utah.

The leading edge of the release passed through Durango, Colorado, on Friday, August 7, 2015, and on August 8, 2015, it crossed the border into New Mexico where it eventually discharged into the San Juan River.

#### **1.1.3 Site Inspection Results**

Aerial and ground reconnaissance indicates that the plume associated with the Gold King Mine release has dissipated downstream and there is no leading edge of contamination visible in downstream sections of the San Juan River or Lake Powell.

The EPA is collecting samples and assessing water quality from Cement Creek and the Animas daily. Water sampling is occurring, and pH levels and dissolved concentrations of metals are being monitored.



## **1.2 Incident Objectives**

- Continue sampling plan and develop strategy to evaluate and mitigate risks due to sediment in the river.
- Continue river assessment through water sampling.
- Effectively communicate with public and stakeholders utilizing a multi-faceted communication strategy to disseminate results.
- Ensure health and safety of the public and response management personnel.
- Develop a means to assess the economic impact upon affected communities
- Continued coordination with the Department of Agriculture (including state and local veterinarians) and the Colorado Extension.
- Continue management of adit discharge.
- Maintain stability of mine road to ensure access.
- Prepare for mine dump stabilization.
- Amend field sampling plan to include assessment of remote areas of the canyon by Tuesday 8/18/2015.
- Roll current well sampling effort into interim shallow groundwater monitoring plan currently under development. Communicate private well results and other follow up action within 96 hours of sampling.
- Develop a demobilization plan for next operational period.
- Long term planning for mine ops for Silverton and San Juan County (including community outreach).
- Implement medium term river monitoring plan with contractor per their scope of work.
- Ensure the coordination of CDPHE's notification system with monitoring contractor to implement event specific sampling.

## **1.3 Critical Resource Needs**

All resources are being tracked by the Resources Unit. Resources for the response continue to be ordered as needed to fill critical resource needs.

## **1.4 Strategic Considerations**

United group of subject matter experts to advise policy makers.

## **2. Current Activities**

### **2.1 Operations Section**

#### **2.1.1 Response Actions to Date**

A Colorado Unified Command (UC) post in Durango was established. The UC includes EPA, State of Colorado Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Southern Ute Indian Tribe, La Plata County, and San Juan Basin Health Department. The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and San Juan County CO are also in regular communication with Unified Command. The EPA Regions 6 and 9 have established incident command posts in Farmington, New Mexico that cover New Mexico and the Navajo Nation response areas. A JIC was established and is providing support for both the UC and the AC.

**The EPA is continuing property assessments and mitigation as needed.**

The EPA continues taking daily residential well samples as requested and Animas River water quality sampling. **The EPA sample count by media for 8/16/2015 is provided in the following table:**

Sample Count for 8/16/2015			
Matrix	SampleDate	Number of Samples Collected	SampleType
Potable Water	8/16/2015	36	Field Sample
Surface Water	8/16/2015	7	Field Sample

**Call center totals are provided in the following table:**

	8/16	To Date Total
Well Water Test Scheduling	6	344
Water Concerns	0	104
Health Concerns	0	31
Recreation	0	20
Ecological Concerns	0	17
Livestock/Irrigation	4	23
Tourism/Media	0	52
Volunteer Offers	0	21
General Concerns	0	120
<b>Daily Totals:</b>	10	732

**Total calls received at the Call Center through Sunday, 8/16/2015 is 732.**

Currently all irrigation ditches are open and available for irrigation use.

**Non-Potable water distribution as of 8/16/2015:**

**Total deliveries: 46 (repeat deliveries)**

**Approx. 141,480 Gallons**

**There was only one delivery to the Durango Nursery yesterday.**

**This was the last day for delivery of non-potable water as there is no longer a need for non-potable water delivery.**

**Potable water distribution:**

**Deliveries continue to be made to three locations.**

**Stakeholders:**

- **Single Family Home cisterns.**

- Multiple family homes on neighborhood cistern.

#### Other Operations:

**The EPA has set up pumping and filtration from river to fill fish ponds at one location using two 4" dry prime pumps.**

1120 cases of bottled water have been purchased to hand out to community. Bottled water is available at the UC/AC facility for pickup by community members.

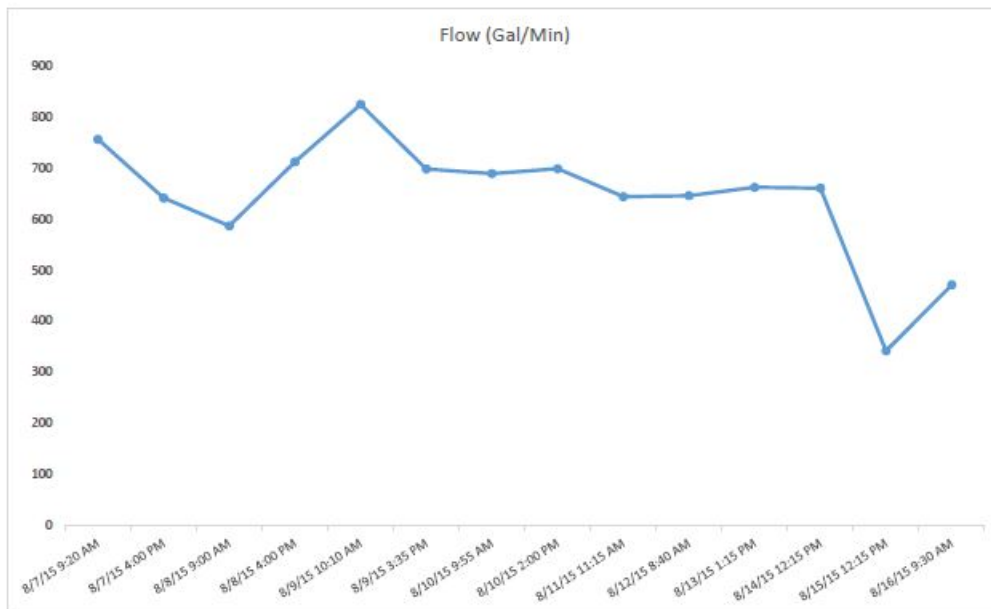
The CDPHE, and public water systems regulated by CDPHE in the impacted area, are taking raw and finished water samples to monitor water quality. City of Durango in coordination with CDPHE resumed pumping water from the Animas River for their water treatment plant on 8/15/2015.

CDPHE has staff in area and continued collecting the Animas River surface water and sediment sampling. Also continued outreach to public water supply system operators.

#### Gold King Mine Site

The EPA continues to operate and work on optimizing four treatment and sedimentation ponds at the mine site which are treating water by lowering acidity levels and removing dissolved metals. **Heavy rains on 8/16/2015 resulted in murky water in Cement Creek and caused difficulties in the road stabilization work. The road stabilization work continues today.**

**Flow from the mine through the morning of 8/16/2015 is shown in the following chart.**



Treated water from the last treatment pond is discharging into Cement Creek. Flow data out of the mine is being collected manually two times per day. Water quality data is being collected at the influent and effluent of the treatment system as well.

#### **2.2.1 Anticipated Activities**

**The EPA will be taking five surface water samples on 8/17/2015 as follows:**

**Cement Creek – 1**

**Animas River upstream of confluence with Cement Creek – 1**

**Animas River downstream of confluence with Cement Creek – 1**

**Animas River through Durango – 2 (Baker's Bridge and River Road)**

**The EPA also be conducting well water sampling as needed and calling those residents sampled to provide the analytical results. For residents that had well samples exceeding drinking water standards in the wells will be resampled at both the tap and at the well.**

**On 8/18/2015 the EPA and CDPHE will be assessing the upper Animas River through the canyon.**

**On 8/17/2015, CDPHE has two sampling teams conducting public water supply and groundwater.**

**On Tuesday and Wednesday (8/18 and 19), the EPA will be accepting claims at the La Plata County Fairgrounds exhibit hall.**

#### **2.2.1.2 Next Steps**

#### **2.2.2 Issues**

### **2.3 Logistics Section**

**To address IT concerns and improve communications, the AC and JIC swapped facilities on 8/16/2016.**

**A 15 minute Communications and IT disruption occurred at the ICP late on 8/16/2015 and was corrected.**

### **2.4 Finance Section**

**Finance will be transitioning a new person in starting Monday to work in conjunction with the current finance section leader.**

### **2.5 Other Command Staff**

#### **2.5.1 Safety Officer**

**On Sunday, authorization was provided for the mine operations to acquire two Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTV's) to replace 4x4 vehicles as the main mode of site transportation of visitors. All visitors will be required to attend an onsite safety brief, comply with the requirements, and remain in the vehicle at all times. Visitors will also be required to don level D personal protection and safety (PPE) consisting of a hard hat, safety vest, protective eyewear and**

safety shoes. The elevation and dramatic change in weather are always of concern so be prepared.

#### **2.5.2 Liaison Officer**

No report.

#### **2.5.3 Information Officer**

There will be two PIOs in Silverton to support the mine site work.

There is a community event planned for this week. The announcement for this is attached to this SITREP.

Social Media Sites being maintained by the UC JIC through local and state resources are:

Blog – [goldkingminerelease.blogspot.com](http://goldkingminerelease.blogspot.com)

FB – [facebook.com/goldkingminerelease](https://facebook.com/goldkingminerelease)

Twitter - @GKMRelease

YouTube Channel – Gold King Mine Release

**The blog has received just under 500 hits in the last 48 hours.**

#### **2.5.4 Weather Forecast**

**Weather forecast for August 17 and 19, 2015:**

##### **DURANGO AREA**

##### **Today**

Isolated showers and thunderstorms after 10am. Mostly sunny, with a high near 89. Light and variable wind becoming west 10 to 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

##### **Tonight**

Isolated showers and thunderstorms before 1am. Partly cloudy, with a low around 53. West northwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming north after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

##### **Tuesday**

Sunny, with a high near 85. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west northwest 10 to 15 mph in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

##### **Tuesday Night**

Mostly clear, with a low around 49. North wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

## **SILVERTON AREA**

### **Today**

Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 11am. Partly sunny, with a high near 73. Light and variable wind becoming west 5 to 10 mph in the morning. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

### **Tonight**

Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 11pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 40. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

### **Tuesday**

A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms between noon and 4pm. Mostly sunny, with a high near 69. West northwest wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to 10 to 15 mph in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 10%.

### **Tuesday Night**

Partly cloudy, with a low around 39. Northwest wind 10 to 15 mph decreasing to 5 to 10 mph after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph

## **3. Participating Entities**

### **3.1 Area Command**

The AC includes EPA Regions 6, 8 and 9, through the three unified commands: Colorado UC, New Mexico UC, and South West UC. The EPA Region 6 is working closely with the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and the EPA Region 9 is working with the Navajo Nation. The AC is completing daily Executive Summary updates on AC activities.

### **3.2 Unified Command and Cooperating Agencies**

**The UC includes EPA, State of Colorado Office of Emergency Management (OEM), the Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT), and La Plata County. The City of Durango, CDPHE, and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe are Agency Representatives. San Juan County is an Agency Administrator.**

The SUIT continues water delivery. As a proactive measure, the SUIT is installing reverse osmosis on tribal residential kitchen taps. If well sampling results show any concerns, additional actions will be taken.

US Bureau of Reclamation (USBOR) is conducting road stabilization in and around the mine site.

The City of Durango and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe are involved through via their agency representatives. San Juan County is an Agency Administrator.

The EPA Region 8 is coordinating with Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) in response to public health concerns/questions associated with the mine waste plume. ATSDR has been in communication with local health officials at San Juan Basin Health Department and San Juan County Public Health in Colorado. Public health questions should be directed to these local public health organizations.

#### 4. Total Personnel On Incident

Gold King Mine Release 2015	
	08/16/2015
Group	Number
EPA @ REOC	0 (24 on call)
Contractors @ REOC	1
EPA in Field (R8)	20
Contractors in Field (R8)	30
EPA Laboratory	0
Contractors Laboratory	0
USCG	3
ERT	1
<b>Subtotal EPA Region 8 Resources</b>	<b>79</b>
Colorado OEM	3
Southern Ute Tribe	6
La Plata County	15
San Juan County	3
CDPHE	10
Southwest IMT	6
City of Durango	12
Durango Fire	2
San Juan Basin Health Dept.	5
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe	1
US Bureau of Reclamation	1
US Bureau of Indian Affairs	1
Grand Junction Fire	1
Mountain Studies Institute	1
ATSDR	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>147</b>

**Personnel working at the Colorado (Durango) Unified Command Post on 08/16/15  
(Does not include Area Command Personnel):**

<b>Position / Section</b>	<b>Number of Personnel</b>
Unified Command	6*
PIO	9
Safety	2
Operations	2
Planning (incl SITL, ENVL & RESL)	8
Logistics	4
Finance	1
Liaisons	4
Agency Representatives/Administrators	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>

\*One UC is located at the Gold King Mine site

**5. Definition of Terms –**

ATSDR= Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

EPA = United States Environmental Protection Agency

CERCLA = Comprehensive Environmental Responsibility, Compensation and Liability Act

CDPHE = Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

USGS = United States Geological Survey

UC = Unified Command (Comprised of Southern Ute Indian Tribe, La Plata County, San Juan Basin Health Dept, EPA, State of Colorado OEM)

UCP = Unified Command Post

AC = Area Command (Comprised of EPA Regions 6, 8 and 9)

NMED = New Mexico Environment Department

BIA = Bureau of Indian Affairs

BOR = Bureau of Reclamation

COEM = Colorado Office of Emergency Management

CDPW = Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife

SWIMT = South West Incident Management Team

MCL=Maximum Contaminant Levels

MSDS = Material Safety Data Sheet

PPE = Personal Protective Equipment

USCG = United States Coast Guard

UTV= Utility Terrain Vehicle

ERT = EPA Emergency Response Team

REOC = EPA Regional Emergency Operations Center

**6. Additional sources of information – <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine>**



## Attachment: Community Event Information

Event: [Love the Animas](#)

Joining in and supporting the Event "[Durango is back - River and Bike Parade](#)", Mild to Wild wants to show our love for the #AnimasRiver and our appreciation for the community support.

In celebration,

1. We have 2 boats reserved for local officials and media. Please call Mild to Wild to reserve your seat (970.247.4789).
2. We are also donating 40 seats in rafts to the 1st 40 reservations. To reserve your seat: <http://bit.ly/1ffVXLs>
3. We will be facilitating private boaters and help manage congestion by providing people shuttles. We will be making loops from Four Corners & Santa Rita Park to 32cd or 29th Street from 4:30pm-5:30pm and 7:30-8:30pm.

Thanks again for all your love and support. The Animas River really is the heart of Durango and impacts us in more ways than most of us thought! If you have your own boat, the parade starts at 5:30 pm. If you prefer to show your support via the riverside bike path, join in by foot or bike. Let's show the world how beautiful Durango is, how lucky we are to live here and what a beautiful recreational and adventure waterway the #AnimasRiver is.

Date: Tuesday, August 18th

Time for event "[Durango is back - River and Bike Parade](#): 5:30 pm at 32cd, 29th or anywhere on the bike path.

Meet time for Mild to Wild's Raft Trip "[Love theAnimas](#)", join us at Mild to Wild at 4:45pm.

Post parade: Head downtown to support our businesses there!

**Spread the word! #AnimasRiver #LoveRiver #VisitDurango #LoveTheAnimas**

**Molly Mickel**

P: 970.247.4789

Explore. Experience. Escape.

And Always, Live with Adventure!

**Mild to Wild Rafting & Jeep Trail Tours, Inc.**

50 Animas View Drive

Durango, CO 81301

**Adventure with us!**

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**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Gold King Mine Spill - Region 6**



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region VI**

**Subject: POLREP #10  
Gold King Mine Spill - Region 6**

**Various New Mexico locations, NM  
Latitude: 36.8374600 Longitude: -107.9916800**

**From: Ronnie Crossland, Region 6 Regional Incident Commander (RIC)**

**Date: 8/17/2015**

**Reporting Period: 8/16/2015 0700 – 8/16/2015 1900**

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Description of Threat**

Region 8 reported approximately three million gallons of mine waste water was released into Cement Creek and the Animas River. The primary environmental concern is the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals flowing as an orange-colored discharge downstream through Durango, Colorado, and into New Mexico and Utah.

## 1.2 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

Water monitoring and sampling is ongoing at public water supply intakes and private wells and field pH levels and other water quality parameters are being monitored.

## 2. Current Activities

Headquarters has established a joint website at [www.epa.gov/goldkingmine](http://www.epa.gov/goldkingmine).

Created a new general public call-in number for Regions 6, 8, and 9: (844) 607-9700.

### 2.1 Operations Section

EPA evaluated NMED Drinking Water Bureau's criteria as discussed in their "DWB recommendations for removing advisory to refrain from drawing river water" document. EPA had a follow up discussion with NMED on both short and long term criteria as proposed in their submission. EPA requested that NMED provide clarification on some elements of their recommendations. EPA will continue collaboration with NMED.

#### Data Posting to the Web

The August 7-11, 2015, surface water sampling data is now available on the Gold King Mine website: <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/gold-king-mine-data-august-13-2015>.

In addition to the data listed above, Area Command and HQ were sent the following data for posting:

- Surface Water sample data from Public Water Supply Intakes for August 12, 2015
- Sediment sample data from Public Water Supply Intakes for August 10, 12, and 13, 2015
- Irrigation Ditch Sediment sample data from August 13, 2015

#### Community Meeting

A community meeting will be held in Farmington the evening of August 17, 2015 at 6 pm MDT. The meeting will be attended by the Superfund Division Director, the R6 RIC and a toxicologist from ERT, in addition to the R6 Incident Commander.

#### Toll-Free Number Activity

	8/16/15	Total to Date
Total Calls Received	5	127
Calls Concerning R6	0	50
Calls Returned by R6	0	50

The table below is a breakdown of the calls pertaining to Region 6. Of the Well Water Test Scheduling calls, 7 of the citizens expressed gratitude for EPA's efforts in sampling.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>8/16/2015</b>	<b>Overall Totals</b>
Well Water Test Scheduling		15
Water Concerns		7
Health Concerns		4
Livestock/Irrigation		3
Tourism/Media		1
Volunteer Offers		3
General Concerns		12
Contractor/Vendor Support		5
Daily Totals:	0	50

#### Private Drinking Water Well Sampling

At this time the private drinking water well sampling effort is completed.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Number of Private Wells Sampled</b>
8/10	10
8/11	31
8/12	23
8/13	0 New Locations (38 re-samples)
8/14	35
8/15	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>114 Distinct Wells</b>

#### Drinking Water Technical Support/Pretreatment/Connections

Morningstar and Farmington are completing the connection between their water systems, current plans are to complete this task the morning of August 17, 2015. The water system operators will complete the connections and will operate the system once functional. Although the public water intakes have been opened it will take at least 48 hours for the system to completely come back on line.

#### Surface Water and Sediment Sampling

	<b>8/16/2015</b>	<b>Total to Date</b>
River Surface Water Samples	9	87
River Sediment Samples	9	64

### Irrigation Ditch Sampling

.

The irrigation ditch sampling effort has been completed.

	<b>8/16/2015</b>	<b>Total to Date</b>
Non-River Sediment/Soil Samples	0	59

### Agriculture and Livestock Water

Several agriculture locations rescinded their requests for water after New Mexico lifted the advisory restricting the use of private water wells. It is also anticipated that as the irrigation ditch water levels stabilize, water hauling deliveries will decrease.

	<b>8/16/15</b>	<b>Total to Date</b>
Farmers Served	3	25
Gallons to Farmers	47,040	1,021,230
Livestock Farms Served	3	25
Gallons to Livestock Farms	6,804	29,916*

\*Total was miscalculated on 8/16/15 Situation Report

## **2.2 Finance Section**

### **Daily Cost Estimates Report**

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>EPA Expended Payroll</b>	<b>EPA Expended Travel</b>	<b>EPA Other Costs</b>	<b>Cumulative Contract Costs</b>	<b>TOTAL Expended</b>	<b>Estimated Daily Burn Rate</b>
<b>EPA</b>	<b>\$168,570.00</b>	<b>\$42,250.00</b>	<b>\$11,854.56</b>	<b>\$989,567.73</b>	<b>\$1,212,242.29</b>	<b>\$131,450.00</b>

## **3. Participating Entities in Region 6**

US EPA

USFWS

NMED

ATSDR

NM Department of Health

NM Office of the State Engineer

NM Department of Game and Fish

County of San Juan – New Mexico

#### 4. Personnel

Group	Number
Region 6 EPA @ REOC	13
Region 6 Contractors @ REOC	5
Region 6 Staff in JIC – Durango, CO	1
Region 6 Staff in Area Command – Durango, CO	1
Region 6 DD/RIC – Farmington, NM	2
ERT Toxicologist – Farmington, NM	1
Region 6 CIC – Farmington, NM	2
Region 6 Water Liaison – Santa Fe, NM	1
Region 6 EPA OSC	3
Region 6/7 Water Technicians	8
Region 6 Contractors in Field	25

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
 POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
 San Juan River Response - Removal Polrep



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
 Region IX**

**Subject:** **POLREP #5**  
**San Juan River Response**

**Shiprock, NM**  
**Latitude: 36.8704828 Longitude: -108.7892506**

**To:** Robert Wise, EPA Region 9

**From:** Kathleen Dillon, Situation Unit Leader

**Date:** 8/17/2015

**Reporting Period:**

**1. Introduction**

**1.1 Background**

<b>Site Number:</b>	<b>Contract Number:</b>
<b>D.O. Number:</b>	<b>Action Memo Date:</b>
<b>Response Authority:</b>	<b>Response Type:</b>
<b>Response Lead:</b>	<b>Incident Category:</b>
<b>NPL Status:</b>	<b>Operable Unit:</b>
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	<b>Start Date:</b>
<b>Demob Date:</b>	<b>Completion Date:</b>
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>	<b>RCRIS ID:</b>
<b>ERNS No.:</b>	<b>State Notification:</b>
<b>FPN#:</b>	<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>

**1.1.1 Incident Category**

**1.1.2 Site Description**

The Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colorado is a historic gold mine at approximately 11,300' elevation. The mine has a continuous discharge of acidic mine drainage that is a significant contributor of manganese, zinc, copper, and cadmium into the Cement Creek drainage of the Animas River watershed. The Gold King Mine has not had maintenance of the mine workings since 1991, and the workings have been inaccessible since 1995 when the mine portal collapsed.

EPA Region 9 is focused on a stretch of the San Juan River extending from Farmington, NM to Mexican

Hat, UT.

### **1.1.2.1 Location**

San Juan County, NM and Navajo Reservation. The Animas River flows into the San Juan River at Farmington, NM. After the Animas River meets the San Juan River, the San Juan River continues to flow west through parts of New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah.

### **1.1.2.2 Description of Threat**

Mine waste water was released into Cement Creek and the Animas River. The volume of the release based on US Geological Survey (USGS) Cement Creek gauging station is estimated at three million gallons. The initial environmental concern was the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals discharged in Cement Creek which flows into the Animas River through Durango, Colorado, and into New Mexico where it joins the San Juan River before flowing into Utah. The river is also used for recreational purposes, including fishing and rafting, and is an important cultural resource for the Navajo Nation.

The leading edge of the release reached the New Mexico border on August 8, 2015 where it eventually discharged into the San Juan River.

### **1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results**

Aerial and ground reconnaissance indicates that the plume associated with the Gold King Mine release has dissipated downstream. There is no leading edge of contamination visible in downstream sections of the San Juan River or Lake Powell.

EPA Region 9 is collecting and assessing water quality from the San Juan River from La Plata Highway in New Mexico to Mexican Hat in Utah. Water sampling is occurring, and pH levels and dissolved concentrations of metals are being monitored.

## **1.2 Incident Objectives**

### **1.Safety**

- Provide safe working environment for all response personnel.
- Identify safety issues and monitor adherence to Health and Safety Plan
- Ensure personnel receive adequate rest and time off

### **2.Sampling**

- Daily water and sediment sampling from 11 designated locations along the San Juan River
- Sampling from Lake Powell
- synchronize sampling data and information with Area Command

### **3.Water Replacement**

- Work with Navajo representatives to staff water points and organize distribution

### **4.Public Outreach**

- Coordinate public forum at which Navajo tribal leaders and community members can address Incident Command representatives.

## **2. Current Activities**

### **2.1 Operations Section**

#### **2.1.1 Narrative**

Daily operations are focused around gathering water and sediment samples from 11 designated locations in the San Juan River. The Glen Canyon ICP is overseeing sampling in the vicinity of Lake Powell.



Water trucks to address Navajo agricultural and livestock needs have been secured and will be continuing to deliver water to designated locations. The Unified Command has also identified a need on the Navajo reservation to provide feed for livestock.

## **2.1.2 Response Actions to Date**

### **Sampling Branch**

EPA Region 9 initiated water and sediment sampling efforts on August 9, 2015, to assess the impacts of the release at the Gold King Mine on the San Juan River. Starting on August 9, samples were gathered from the shoreline of the following 11 designated locations along the San Juan River:

#### **New Mexico**

San Juan River at LaPlata Highway (SJLP)  
 PNM Intake (SJFP)  
 San Juan River at Hogback (SJHB)  
 San Juan River at Shiprock (SJSR)  
 San Juan DS from Shiprock (SJDS)  
 San Juan River at Four Corners (SJ4C)

#### **Utah**

San Juan River at McElmo Creek (SJME)  
 San Juan at Montezuma Creek (SJMC)  
 San Juan River at Bluff Bridge (SJBB)  
 San Juan River at Mexican Hat (SJMh)  
 McElmo Creek Tributary (MECT)

Sample totals are summarized below:

August 8 - 4 water samples (SJLP, SJFP, SJHB & SJSR)  
 August 9 - 13 water samples (all sites)  
 August 10 - 12 water samples, 11 sediment samples (all sites)  
 August 11 - 13 water samples, 13 sediment samples (all sites)  
 August 12 - 13 water samples, 13 sediment samples (all sites)  
 August 13 - 12 water samples, 12 sediment samples (all sites)  
 August 14 - 12 water samples, 12 sediment samples (all sites)  
 August 15 - 12 water samples, 12 sediment samples (all sites)  
 August 16 - 12 water samples, 12 sediment samples (all sites)

There have been no requests for well samples and no requests for samples from diversion channels.

### **Community Relations Branch**

Region 9 continues daily meetings at designated Navajo Chapters. Chapter meetings are summarized below:

8/10 - Oljeto, Aneth  
 8/12 - Shiprock  
 8/14 - Oljeto, Aneth  
 8/15 - Hogback, Nenahnezad, San Juan, Upper Fruitland, Cudei  
 8/16 - Mexcian Water, Gaadiiahi

Community Involvement Coordinators attended two Chapter meetings yesterday. The first was at Mexican Water Chapter at 10am and the second was at Gadii'ahi Chapter at 1pm.

Two community outreach members spoke at the Mexican Water Chapter meeting. The meeting was attended by around 25 community members as well as Chapter officials. The purpose of this meeting was to apologize and provide updates on the emergency response, and listen to community concerns. Topics discussed included:

- an introduction to the ALERT team (chapter level emergency response)
- when access to the river will resume
- impacts to farmers living next to the river
- desire to see more sampling points tested in the vicinity of Mexican water farms, and
- long term risks related to the spill

The Gadii'ahi meeting was attended by around 40 community members, as well as Chapter officials, a Navajo Council Delegate, a BIA representative, and a representative from the New Mexico State Legislature. Community involvement coordinators continued to receive questions and feedback on the following:

- agricultural water needs and impacts
- marketability of crops and livestock due to perception issues
- concerns related to claims forms, especially for long term impacts
- questions about long term impacts and remediation
- concern about lifting the ban

Three new community outreach members arrived yesterday. They will act as a liaison to Shiprock, community Involvement field support, and a ATSDR Health Educator

### **Water and Feed Delivery Branch**

A summary of water tank delivery for use for livestock and agriculture is as follows:

8/13 - 11,000 gallons of water delivered to Hal Chita, UT, 7,000 gallons of water delivered to Shiprock, NM  
 8/14 - 12 tanks (each 16,000 gallons) staged throughout Shiprock chapter  
 8/15 - 13 tanks (each 16,000 gallons) staged throughout various chapters of Navajo Nation.

Tanks are located at the following positions:

Upper Fruitland Rodeo Grounds  
 Shiprock Rodeo Grounds  
 Gadiiaah Chapterhouse  
 Teec Nos Pos Chapterhouse  
 Red Valley Windmill (near BIA Rte 50)  
 Red Valley Windmill 19-228  
 Page Windmill 017-509  
 Page Windmill 02A-93  
 Five Points Intersection  
 Anneth Chapter House  
 Monument Valley Welcome Center

A summary of feed delivered for livestock is as follows:

8/14 - 384 bales delivered to Gaadiiahi chapter

### **Drinking Water System Impacts**

No known water systems in Region 9 have been impacted.

### **Glen Canyon, Arizona ICP**

Yesterday, EPA and START completed surface water and sediment sampling of Lake Powell. On Sunday, surface water and sediment samples were collected from five locations on the main stem of Lake Powell,

including the following: Rock Creek Bay, Gregory Butte, Princess Cove, Navajo Canyon and the Glen Canyon Dam. On Saturday, the EPA/START sampling team collected samples from six locations including the presumed San Juan River inflow into Lake Powell between Zahn Bay and Great Bend, the presumed “plunge line” where river water plunges beneath lake water just east of Great Bend, Paiute Wash and Bald Rock Canyon.

While the team was able to sample Lake Powell from the Glen Canyon Dam to the San Juan River delta there are significant gaps in data. For one, there are a relatively small number of sample locations – 11 total. Also, available sampling tools limited the effort to shallow water sampling locations. Because much of Lake Powell is several hundred feet deep, the team was unable to sample at those areas.

Given that Lake Powell is a hugely critical resource, the Lake Powell Branch believes it is extremely important for EPA to evaluate potential impacts to the lake from the Gold King mine release. Team members have also received numerous phone calls from various agencies inquiring about the need to examine Lake Mead, although this would seem to be a less urgent or immediate need pending the outcome of Lake Powell sampling efforts.

The upcoming USGS/NPS Lake Powell Mercury survey beginning this week would give EPA the opportunity to almost immediately begin this evaluation, and the Lake Powell Branch suggests that it would be a big mistake to miss out on this generous invitation from both a data need and a public perception perspective.

The Lake Powell Branch will be reviewing the details of the Mercury sampling program and believes that this survey could be modified to include priority metals in their analytes list. Our goal would be to gain a better understanding of heavy metals distribution in the water column and sediment throughout Lake Powell. EPA would have to provide funding and or lab support to participate in this event, however it would be money well spent as it would cost much more to do this on our own.

## **2.2 Planning Section**

### **2.2.1 Anticipated Activities**

Sediment and water sampling of the eleven data points on the San Juan River will continue today. Two samples along San Juan River (Mexican Hat and Bluff Bridge) will be gathered from the middle of the channel via small boat. The other 9 sample sites will continue to be gathered from the shoreline.

Sampling in the vicinity of Lake Powell will also continue out of the Glen Canyon ICP.

A more robust water distribution system has been established throughout Navajo Nation. Water tanks are now staged at 13 total points throughout Navajo Nation with a capacity of 32,000 gallons of water at each location except for one location that has a capacity of 16,000 gallons. Tanks will be tested today for water quality.

Additional representatives from the EPA's community relations team have arrived at the Farmington ICP.

#### **2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities**

Continued daily water and sediment sampling is planned.

Refilling water tanks staged throughout Navajo Nation will continue as needed.

Community Outreach Branch at Farmington ICP will continue outreach with members of Navajo nation.

### **2.2.1.2 Next Steps**

Improve relationship with Navajo Nation.

### **2.2.2 Issues**

No current issues.

## **2.3 Logistics Section**

The Glen Canyon ICP will meet with NPS today to address the objectives and logistics of their survey trip, and subsequently, it anticipates working with the Farmington ICP in development of a Resource Request in support of this ten day expedition.

## **2.4 Finance Section**

### **2.4.1 Narrative**

Yesterday, there was a burn rate of \$7,320.17 with a weekly burn rate of \$51,241.18. On average a total of \$4,302.23 is spent on personnel per day.

A total of \$222,693.50 is committed for upcoming operations.

## **2.5 Other Command Staff**

### **2.5.1 Safety Officer**

Personal Flotation Devices must be worn by all members of sampling teams while underway on any watercraft. When performing boat operations, a representative from each vessel must contact the Situation Unit Leader at intervals of no more than two hours stating location and current operations. Any lightning sighting will cause a stop to operations.

With weather being forecasted into the mid 90s, hydration is of paramount importance. Additionally, much of the terrain surrounding the river is uneven and rocky. Responders should transit these areas.

While transiting throughout the region, responders should be mindful of the potential for contact with wildlife. Scorpions, snakes, and other similar animals raise a potential for injury.

### **2.5.2 Liaison Officer**

Liaison officers are continuing outreach with Navajo community members and representatives of the Navajo Tribe.

### **2.5.3. Weather Forecast**

Weather forecast for Monday, August 17

#### **FARMINGTON AREA**

##### *Today*

A mix of sun and clouds with a high of 95, low of 60 and 20% chance of precipitation. Wind coming out of the southeast at 8 miles per hour.

##### *Tonight*

No precipitation tonight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 60.

##### *Tomorrow*

Sunny with a high of 92, low of 56. 20% chance of precipitation.

### **3. Participating Entities**

#### **3.1 Area Command**

EPA Region 9 is coordinating with EPA Regions 6 and 8, Navajo Nation, and the states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona. The EPA Region 9 is working with the Navajo Nation to evaluate possible impacts to the Tribe. Potentially impacted water systems have been notified, and precautions are in place to ensure drinking water is protected. The EPA and New Mexico Environmental Department are providing assistance to community water systems and closely monitoring the situation. EPA Region 9 has contacted the Bureau of Indian Affairs regarding potential impacts to the Navajo Nation and is currently working with Navajo liaisons.

#### **3.2 Unified Command and Cooperating Agencies**

The UC includes EPA Region 9 and United States Coast Guard. Bret Moxley has assumed the role of Incident Commander.

### **4. Personnel On Site**

EPA - 8  
EPA START - 13  
ERRS - 5  
USCG - 8  
Navajo Liaisons - 2

### **5. Definition of Terms**

No information available at this time.

### **6. Additional sources of information**

#### **6.1 Internet location of additional information/report**

[www.epa.gov/goldkingmine](http://www.epa.gov/goldkingmine)

### **7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.